

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 526
By Tracy

A RESOLUTION to recognize Dr. Art Walker on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of industry; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Art Walker is one such estimable person who has served with distinction for three years as the President of Motlow State Community College; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Walker, who has been with the school for eighteen years, will be taking a much deserved retirement on June 30, 2006; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Walker is well-known for his efforts to move Motlow State Community College forward in the areas of student access, capital projects, and fund raising; during his tenure as President, the college has expanded course scheduling and online classes, entered into a partnership with Tennessee Tech University to provide the 2+2 Elementary Education Program, facilitated the implementation of the common general education core, and significantly increased enrollment in the Dual Enrollment Program; and

WHEREAS, his prowess at fund raising enabled the college to garner the needed support for the construction of a free-standing building in Smyrna and the expansion of the McMinnville Center and enabled major renovations to the Nisbett Center and the Forrester Center; Dr. Walker further supported the continuing initiative to provide for a new library on the Moore County campus; and

WHEREAS, during the 2004-2005 school year, Motlow College ranked first in fund raising among the Tennessee Board of Regents' nineteen four- and two-year institutions and

collected its second-highest score in performance funding from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, scoring 98 out of 100 points; and

WHEREAS, a native of Bridgeport, Alabama, Dr. Walker earned an Associate of Arts degree from Okaloosa-Walton Community College, a bachelor's degree from Athens State University, a master's degree from Troy State University, and a doctorate from the University of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, prior to his joining Motlow in 1988, he spent twenty-six years in the United States Air Force, from which he retired in 1988 at the rank of Major; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Walker joined the staff of Motlow State Community College in 1988 as an instructor of psychology; he was appointed as the Director of the Fayetteville Center in 1989, and oversaw the construction of both the Fayetteville Center and the Sundquist Center of Advanced Technologies and cultivated enrollment growth, program development, and community involvement; and

WHEREAS, in February of 2000, Dr. Art Walker was named the Vice President of Academic Affairs for the college and, in January of 2003, he accepted his post as Motlow's fourth President; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Walker is an active and important part of his community and his profession, participating in numerous worthy organizations, including the Tullahoma Noon Rotary Club, the Tullahoma Chamber of Commerce, and several statewide higher education committees, and is a valued member of the Board of Directors of American City Bank; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Art Walker exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Dr. Walker has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we extend to Dr. Art Walker our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling

retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors and offer our gratitude for his many years of dedication and service to Motlow State Community College.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.